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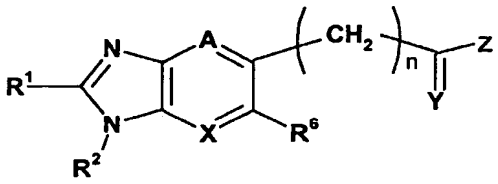
(54) Title: VIRAL POLYMERASE INHIBITORS



(I)

(57) Abstract: A compound of formula (I) wherein: X is CH or N; Y is O or S; Z is OH, NH_2, $NMeR^3$, NHR^3; OR^3 or 5- or 6-membered heterocycle, having 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, said heterocycle being optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents; A is N, COR^7 or CR^5, wherein R^5 is H, halogen, or (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^7 is H or $(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), with the proviso that X and A are not both N; R^6 is H, halogen, $(C_{1-6}$ alkyl) or OR^7, wherein R^7 is H or $(C_{1-6}$ alkyl); R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 5- or 6-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N, and S, phenyl, phenyl(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, phenyl(C_{2-6})alkenyl, (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl, (C_{1-6})alkyl, CF_3, 9- or 10-membered heterobicycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said heterocycle, phenyl, phenyl(C_{2-6})alkenyl and phenyl(C_{1-3})alkyl, alkenyl , cycloalkyl, (C_{1-6})alkyl, and heterobicycle are all optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents; R^2 is selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{6-10})bicycloalkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, and pyridyl, all of which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents; R^3 is selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{6-10})aryl, (C_{6-10})aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, (C_{3-6})cycloalkyl(C_{2-6})alkenyl, (C_{6-10})aryl(C_{2-6})alkenyl, $N\{(C_{1-6})$ alkyl$\}_2$, $NHCOO(C_{1-6})$alkyl(C_{6-10})aryl, $NHCO(C_{6-10})$aryl, (C_{1-6})alkyl-5- or 10-atom heterocycle, having 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and 5- or 10-atom heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S; wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkenyl and heterocycle are all optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents; n is zero or 1; or a detectable derivative or salt thereof. The compounds of the invention may be used as inhibitors of hepatitis C virus replication. The invention further provides a method for treating or preventing hepatitis C virus infection.

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